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IRAQI AGGRESSION AND THE CONTINUED OCCUPATION OF KUWAIT IN FLAGRANT VIOLATION OF THE CHARTER OF THE UNITED NATIONS

SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-sixth year

Letter dated 17 January 1991 from the Permanent Representative of Bulgaria to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to forward to you the texts of a Declaration of the President of the Republic of Bulgaria (annex I) and a Declaration of the Government of the Republic of Bulgaria (annex II) in connection with the crisis in the Persian Gulf region. I would very much appreciate it if you would have this letter and its annexes circulated as documents of the General Assembly, under agenda item 153, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Dimitar KOSTOV
Ambassador
Permanent Representative
to the United Nations

ANNEX I

Declaration of the President of the Republic of Bulgaria in connection with the commencement of military action in the Persian Gulf region, issued on 17 January 1991

The Republic of Bulgaria has learned with deep concern of the start of military action in the Persian Gulf region. Our anxiety is increased by the fact that this conflict is unfolding close to our country.

The responsibility for the outbreak of the conflict lies entirely with the Iraqi leadership, which, by occupying and annexing Kuwait, has flagrantly violated the basic principles and norms of international law, has refused to take into account the clearly expressed opinion of the international community to implement the respective resolutions of the Security Council of the United Nations, including resolution 678 (1990), and to respond constructively to the numerous peace initiatives.

All options for finding a peaceful outcome of the crisis in the Persian Gulf have been explored. Thus, the commencement of military action, despite the great risks involved, is a radical but necessary measure to guarantee international peace. It is envisaged in the Charter of the United Nations and is particularly appropriate when the security of small nations is at stake.

Throughout the time following Kuwait's illegal occupation by Iraq the Republic of Bulgaria has actively supported the efforts of the international community aimed at finding a political solution of the conflict. Bulgaria supported all resolutions of the Security Council on this matter by joining unconditionally in the international embargo against Iraq, despite the heavy price it has had to pay and the fact that this has made it even more difficult for the country to emerge from the severe economic crisis.

The Republic of Bulgaria is availing itself of this opportunity to yet again emphasize its consistent position that peace in the region cannot be achieved without a complete and unconditional Iraqi withdrawal from the State of Kuwait, without the restoration of its sovereignty, territorial integrity and legitimate Government in accordance with the resolutions of the Security Council of the United Nations.

The Republic of Bulgaria is thus supportive of the actions of the multinational forces for meeting those goals and is again reiterating its readiness, expressed on a number of occasions, to act with all means in implementation of the decision of the Grand National Assembly of Bulgaria.

At the same time it is our hope that the military action will be over soon, to be followed by steps for resolving the disputed issues between Iraq and Kuwait by diplomatic means.

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The Republic of Bulgaria is and will continue to be a friend of the Arab peoples, including the people of Iraq. It will continue to work in the future for promoting mutually advantageous co-operation with all States in the region.

ANNEX II

Declaration of the Government of the Republic of Bulgaria, issued on 16 January 1991

The deadline for Iraq's complete and unconditional implementation of the respective resolutions of the Security Council of the United Nations has passed on 15 January. The Iraqi forces had until yesterday to withdraw from Kuwait as a first and necessary condition for restoring the pre-2 August 1990 status.

The Republic of Bulgaria notes with deep regret and concern that until now the consistent efforts of the international community aimed at finding a just and peaceful solution to the crisis have yielded no positive results. The Iraqi leadership has not given up its unrealistic policy and is continuing not to observe the basic principles and norms of international law. It is becoming increasingly likely that the highly unstable and explosive situation in the Persian Gulf may bring about a military conflict of unpredictable magnitude and consequences. Our concern is heightened by our country's close proximity to that region.

The Bulgarian Government is urgently calling once again upon the leaders of Iraq to conceive the gravity of the situation, to show statesmanly wisdom and feeling of responsibility and to take immediately the necessary measures to implement the resolutions of the Security Council. At the same time we are aware that at this critical time political composure and continuing diplomatic efforts are needed for finding a peaceful way out of this crisis. Bulgaria is prepared to assist in meeting these goals.

The Republic of Bulgaria is availing itself of this opportunity to yet again emphasize its consistent position that peace in the region cannot be achieved without a complete and unconditional Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwaiti territory, without the restoration of its sovereignty, territorial integrity and legitimate Government.

We would like to remind of our full support for the respective resolutions of the Security Council of the United Nations, including resolution 678 (1990).